

I support media diversity and freedom of the press

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. Our founding fathers only protected one business in the Constitution. that was the journalism -- freedom of the press. Their thinking was that in order for a democracy to work, the electorate (the people) had to be informed. And the only fair and equitable way to inform the people was give them access to a wide variety of opinions on a subject and let them figure out for themselves where they stand. When the media is controlled by a handful of mega corporations -- with their own agendas, it is clear that the electorate will not be fairly and honestly exposed to opposing viewpoints. No mega corporation is going to facilitate the distribution of information that is counter to its own economic best interest -- not when the chips are really down.

I strongly believe that the FCC should mandate and enforce more stringent limits on how many radio, tv, press, and other media in a given geographic area can be controlled by a single source. Democracy cannot work without an informed electorate. The electorate cannot be informed if it only hears one side of the issue. Even if that one side is couched in different words.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the country so that people from all walks of life can have an input into this important decision. We criticize other countries for dominating the airwave with single source media, but we are dangerously close to doing the same in our country.